

Message Text

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ORIGIN MMS-02

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DRAFTED BY M/SM:RGMAYS, JR.

APPROVED BY M/MS:RGMAYS, JR.

S/NM - MR. RAFFERTY

EA/EX - MR. CHAMPAGNE

EA/RA - MR. ZEROLIS

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R 312300Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNR, KS

SUBJECT:OPRED - PROPOSED INCREASE IN DEA STAFFING FOR FY 75

1. RECENT CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE PROMPTED THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) TO REVISE THE OVERSEAS STAFFING PLAN IT HAD PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED FOR FY 1975. THIS REVISION CONTAINS THE BELOW PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE SEOUL OFFICE:

--AN INCREASE OF ONE SPECIAL AGENT POSITION. APPROVAL OF THIS ADDITIONAL POSITION WOULD RAISE THE DEA AUTHORIZED AMERICAN COMPLEMENT AT SEOUL TO THREE (2 AGENTS, 1 CLERK).

2. FOLLOWING JUSTIFICATION ACCOMPANIES DEA REQUEST FOR THE ADDITIONAL POSITION. QUOTE:

DEA REQUIRES THAT AT LEAST TWO SPECIAL AGENTS BE ASSIGNED TO AN OFFICE IN ORDER TO ENSURE PROPER COVERAGE AND LIAISON DURING PERIODS WHEN ONE AGENT IS ADMINISTRATIVELY OR OPERATIONALLY ABSENT. DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF U.S. SERVICE-

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ATIONALLY ABSENT. DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF U.S. SERVICE-

MEN IN KOREA, THE U.S. MILITARY AND DEPENDENTS HAVE BECOME THE PRIMARY USERS OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND NARCOTICS IN KOREA.

KOREA IS A MAJOR PRODUCER OF ILLICIT AMPHETAMINE AND BARBITURATE POWDER WHICH IS IN GREAT DEMAND BY THE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL. HEROIN AND MARIHUANA ARE AVAILABLE BUT THE SUPPLY IS NOT AS GREAT AS AMPHETAMINES AND BARBITUATES.

THE GOVERNMENT OF KOREA HAS INCREASED ITS NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT STAFF AND INSTITUTED AN INTERNAL TRAINING SYSTEM TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITIES OF ITS NARCOTICS AGENTS. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ENCOUNTERS SOME DIFFICULTIES IN THAT ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY IS DIVIDED AMONG THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, THE KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE, THE METROPOLITAN POLICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS. THIS DIVISION AND THE ACCOMPANYING SYSTEM TEND TO INHIBIT THE NECESSARY FREE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

AN ADDITIONAL DEA AGENT ASSIGNED TO SEOUL WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST THESE AGENCIES IN THEIR NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT AND WOULD ENHANCE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND DEA. END QUOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE COM COMMENTS ON DEA PROPOSAL, INCLUDING ANY IMPACT ON MISSION'S ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES AND ANTICIPATED REACTION OF HOST GOVERNMENT. KISSINGER

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